Financial Assistance to Development of NHs in Assam

2097. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governnment have received any proposal from the Assam Government for grant of financial assistance for development of National Highways in Assam;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) National Highways are the responsibility of Government of India, therefore, there is no question of financial assistance for development of National Highways.

Financial viability of Express Highways

2098. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans of attracting the private sector in express hgihways construction has not been successful;

(b) whether it is a fact that out of 26 proposed express highway stretches covering 4885 Kms all over the country, requiring an investment of Rs. 47.982 cr. only six have been found to be financially viable giving a return of 20%.

(c) whether it is also a fact that the balance 20 percent are estimated to give a return of 15 percent and below; and

(d) if so, how Government plan to resolve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) In view of high cost of land acquisition and rehabilitation of displaced persons, expressways are presently not being given priority.

(d) Does not arise.